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claim, or cost of insurance are not compensable. While such claims do not lie against the Government, members should be referred to the Personal Property Office for assistance in filing their inconvenience claims against the commercial carriers.

(g) *Items of speculative value.* Theses, manuscripts, unsold paintings, or a similar creative or artistic work done by the claimant, friend, or a relative is limited to the cost of materials only. The value of such items is speculative. Compensation for a utilitarian object made by the claimant, such as a quilt or bookcase, is limited to the value of an item of similar quality.

(h) *Loss or damage to property due to negligence of the claimant.* Negligence is a failure to exercise the degree of care expected under the circumstances that is the proximate cause of the loss. Losses due, in whole or in part, to the negligence of the claimant, the claimant's spouse, child, houseguest, employee, or agent are not compensable.

(i) *Business property.* Losses of items acquired for resale or use in a private business are not compensable. If property is acquired for both business and personal use, compensation will not be allowed if business use is substantial, or is the primary purpose for which the item was purchased, or if the item is designed for professional use and is not normally intended for personal use.

(j) *Motor vehicles.* Collision damage is not payable unless it meets the criteria for payment as property used for the benefit of the Government as established in § 751.6(c)(1).

(k) *Violation of law or directives.* Property acquired, possessed, or transported unlawfully or in violation of competent regulations or directives. This includes vehicles, weapons, or property shipped to accommodate another person, as well as property used to transport contraband.

(l) *Sales tax.* Sales taxes associated with repair or replacement costs will not be considered unless the claimant provides proof that the sales tax was actually paid.

(m) *Appraisal fees.* An appraisal, as distinguished from an estimate of replacement or repair, is defined as a valuation of an item provided by a person who is not in the business of selling

or repairing that type of property. Normally, claimants are expected to obtain appraisals on expensive items at their own expense.

(n) *Quantities of property not reasonable or useful under the circumstances are not compensable.* Factors to be considered are claimant's living conditions, family size, social obligations, and any particular need to have more than average quantities, as well as the actual circumstances surrounding the acquisition and loss.

(o) *Intangible Property,* such as Bankbooks, Checks, Promissory Notes, Stock Certificates, Bonds, Bills of Lading, Warehouse Receipts, Baggage Checks, Insurance Policies, Money Orders, and Traveler's Checks are not Compensable.

(p) *Property Owned by the United States,* Except where the Claimant is Responsible to an Agency of the Government other than the DON.

(q) *Contractual coverage.* Losses, or any portion thereof, that have been recovered or are recoverable pursuant to contract are not compensable.

[57 FR 5055, Feb. 12, 1992, as amended at 72 FR 53423, Sept. 19, 2007]

§ 751.8 Adjudicating authorities.

(a) *Claims by Navy personnel.* (1) The following officials are authorized to adjudicate and authorize payment of PCA claims up to \$100,000:

- (i) The Judge Advocate General;
- (ii) The Deputy Judge Advocate General;
- (iii) Any Assistant Judge Advocate General; and
- (iv) The Deputy Assistant Judge Advocate General (Claims and Tort Litigation).

(2) Any individual, when designated by the Deputy Assistant Judge Advocate General (Claims and Tort Litigation Division), may adjudicate and authorize payment of PCA claims up to any designated amount.

(b) *Claims by Marine Corps personnel.* (1) The following officials are authorized to adjudicate and authorize payment of PCA claims up to \$40,000:

- (i) Commandant of the Marine Corps;
- (ii) Deputy Commandant, Manpower and Reserve Affairs Department;
- (iii) Director, Personal and Family Readiness Division;

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(iv) Head, Military Personnel Services Branch;

(v) Head, Personal Property Claims Section; and

(vi) Any individual personally designated by the Commandant of the Marine Corps may adjudicate and authorize payment of PCA claims up to any delegated amount not to exceed \$40,000.

(2) The Assistant Head, Personal Property Claims Section is authorized to adjudicate and authorize payment of PCA claims up to \$25,000.

(3) Any individual at Marine Corps Field Transportation Management Office/Claims Activities, when personally designated by the Director, Personal and Family Readiness Division, may be authorized to adjudicate and authorize payment of PCA claims up to any delegated amount not to exceed \$40,000.

[72 FR 53423, Sept. 19, 2007]

§ 751.9 Presentment of claim.

(a) *General.* A claim shall be submitted in writing and, if practicable, be presented to the Personnel Claims Unit or Marine Corps claims office serving the area where the claim accrued, such as where the House Hold Goods were delivered. If submission in accordance with the foregoing is impractical under the circumstance, the claim may be submitted in writing to any installation or establishment of the Armed Forces which will forward the claim to the appropriate Navy or Marine Corps claims office for processing. To constitute a filing, a claim must be presented in writing to one of the military departments.

(b) *Statute of limitations.* A claim must be presented in writing to a military installation within 2 years after it accrues. This requirement is statutory and may only be waived if a claim accrues during armed conflict, or armed conflict intervenes before the 2 years have run, and good cause is shown. In this situation, a claim may be presented not later than 2 years after the end of the armed conflict. A claim accrues on the day the claimant knows or should know of the loss. For losses that occur in shipment of personal property, normally the day of delivery or the day the claimant loses entitlement to storage at Government expense (whichever occurs first) is the day the claim ac-

crued. If a claimant's entitlement to Government storage terminates, but the property is later delivered at Government expense, the claim accrues on delivery. In computing the 2 years, exclude the first day (day of delivery or incident) and include the last day. If the last day falls on a non-workday, extend the 2 years to the next workday.

(c) *Substantiation.* The claimant is responsible for substantiating ownership or possession, the fact of loss or damage, and the value of property. Claimants are expected to report losses promptly. The greater the delay in reporting a loss, the more substantiation the claimant is expected to provide.

(1) *Obviously damaged or missing inventory items that are not reported at delivery.* Claimants are expected to list missing inventory items and obvious damage at time of delivery. Claimants who do not should be questioned. Obviously some claimants will simply not notice readily apparent damage. If, however, the claimant cannot provide an explanation or lacks credibility, payment should be denied based on lack of evidence that the item was lost or damaged in shipment.

(2) *Later-discovered shipment loss or damage.* A claimant has 70 days to unpack, discover, and report loss and damage that is not obvious at delivery. In most cases, loss and damage that is discovered later and reported in a timely manner should be deemed to have been incurred in shipment.

(3) *Damage to POVs in shipment.* Persons shipping POVs are expected to list damage on DD Form 788 (Private Vehicle Shipping Document for Automobile) when they pick up the vehicle. Obvious external damage that is not listed is not payable. Damage the claimant could reasonably be expected not to notice at the pickup point should be considered if the claimant reports the damage to claims or transportation office personnel within a short time, normally a few days after arriving at the installation.

(4) *Credibility.* Factors that indicate a claimant's credibility is questionable include amounts claimed that are exaggerated in comparison with the cost of similar items, insignificant or almost undetectable damage, very recent purchase dates for most items claimed,